Niagara Escarpment Commission 2008-09

Annual Report

Ontario

TO HIS HONOUR
The Lieutenant Governor
of the Province of Ontario

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR
The undersigned begs respectively to present to Your Honour the Annual Report of the Niagara Escarpment Commission for the year beginning April 1, 2008 and ending March 31, 2009.

THE HONOURABLE DONNA CANSFIELD
Minister

Ontario's Niagara Escarpment

Niagara Escarpment Commission

THE HONOURABLE DONNA CANSFIELD
Minister of Natural Resources

Honourable Madam:

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report of the Niagara Escarpment Commission for the year April 1, 2008 and ending March 31, 2009.

DON SCOTT
Chair

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Ontario's Niagara Escarpment

Ontario

niagara escarpment biosphere reserve

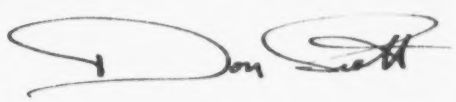
A Note from the Chair

When the Niagara Escarpment was designated a World Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1990, the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act and the Niagara Escarpment Plan were underscored as integral components of the designation.

With provincial government legislation in place to guide development in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, UNESCO noted that *"the protection of this complex landscape within a rapidly urbanizing region is a tremendous feat of coordination requiring leadership, hard work, imagination, tenacity and a good dose of human psychology."*

We are indeed fortunate to have access to this protected natural area to enjoy the many recreational and economic opportunities it provides. The Niagara Escarpment forms the foundation for the internationally-recognized wine industry on the Niagara Peninsula. It is also a significant recreational resource for sustainable and rural tourism - Ontario's Niagara Escarpment, its parks system and the Bruce Trail contribute more than $100 million a year to local and regional economies.

The Niagara Escarpment is truly "Ontario's Natural Edge" – a treasure to protect for today's and future generations.



Don Scott, Chair

Operational Performance

Overview

In addition to the core functions established by the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act, a Memorandum of Understanding between the NEC and the Ministry of Natural Resources sets out the current expectations of the NEC:

- Promoting the objectives of the NEP and the NEPDA through a variety of communication initiatives;
- Supporting the Province's Greenspace initiatives as set out in the Greenbelt Act, 2005 and the Greenbelt Plan;
- Supporting the Ministry's Natural Spaces Initiative, where applicable, and co-operating with the Ministry and parks agencies.
- Cooperating with the Ministry, parks agencies and others in NEPOSS implementation, land stewardship, research, and communications activities related to promoting and achieving Plan objectives.

Priorities and Results

The Niagara Escarpment Commission's front-line role as the province's leading environmental land use planning agency aligns to the Ministry of Natural Resources' key priority to:

- Promote, market and enhance the protection of natural heritage in southern Ontario.

The Commission is a statutory body that operates at "arms length" from the Provincial Government in accordance with the NEPDA. Its decisions are made independently and impartially.

As a regulatory agency, the NEC conducts itself according to the management principles of the Government of Ontario, including the principles of ethical behaviour, excellence in management, honest and ethical administration of public funds, professional public service with full accountability, consistency, fairness and courtesy.

The NEC and its staff are committed to leadership in environmental awareness and sustainable land use planning. The NEC is dedicated to program transparency, consistency, and public service that is fair, respectful, balanced and empathetic.

The NEC incorporates the following objectives of the Ministry of Natural Resources in all aspects of our operation:

- Promote healthy, sustainable ecosystems.
- Ontario's Niagara Escarpment includes three transecting ecosystems. Sustainable planning promotes the preservation of ecologically sensitive areas and habitat for Species at Risk.
- Conserve biodiversity.
- The Niagara Escarpment's protected ecosystems are home to 55 species of mammals, 325 species of birds and 40% of Ontario's rare flora.
- Conduct scientific research.
- The NEC's ONE Monitoring Program monitors the Escarpment's ecology and applies scientific findings to strengthen policies to preserve the Niagara Escarpment. The NEC has sponsored and encouraged research, environmental monitoring and the development of GIS tools to improve planning, biosphere reserve management, policy review and implementation.
- Develop effective resource management policies
- NEC initiatives, such as the biennial "Leading Edge" Conference, provide vehicles for the sharing and integration of information of NE biosphere research, environmental monitoring, management techniques and stewardship.
- Promote economic opportunities in the resource sector.
- The Niagara Escarpment's economic benefit to Ontario surpasses $100 million annually (1997 statistics). The Niagara Escarpment provides aggregate resource areas and agricultural lands as well as vast tourism potential related to the natural features of the Escarpment.
- Enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation
- The NEC works with the Bruce Trail Conservancy and local conservation authorities to raise awareness and accessibility in Escarpment recreation. The NE Parks System including Bruce Trail and Escarpment Recreation designation provide public access and recreation opportunities.

Niagara Escarpment Plan Implementation

Overview

- Continue to meet NEPDA responsibilities.
- Continue to implement the NEP and contribute to planning-related concerns with partner municipalities.
- Continue to pursue (and report on) changes in the legislation (NEPDA) and the Development Control (DC) regulations needed to streamline the NEP Amendment and Development Control processes.
- Continue the processes of removing DC outside the NEP area and align Development Control with NEP boundaries; continue to work with municipalities for the removal of DC in Urban Area, Minor Urban Centre and Escarpment Recreation

- Minor Urban Centre and Escarpment Recreation Area designations of the NEP.
- Contribute to protected spaces objective by continuing NEC actions related to NEPOSS (e.g. participation in MNR-lead NEPOSS review and strategy development).
- Meet the NEC responsibilities under the EBR (new Instrument Regulation) and provide an electronically-accessible database for public notice and review of development permits.
- Continue to develop staff training initiatives and succession planning to strengthen and enhance planning and management skills within the NEC.

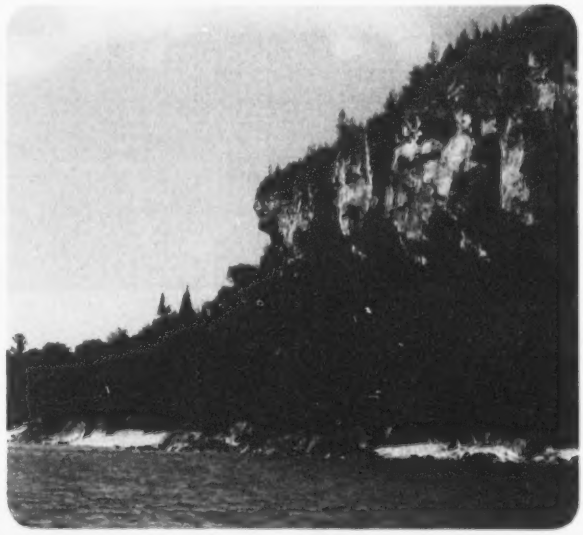
Development Permit Applications & Related Activities

The Niagara Escarpment Commission manages the Niagara Escarpment Plan through a permit system that ensures that proposed development within the area of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment is compatible with the Escarpment's natural features.

The NEC received 459 permit applications during the 2008/09 fiscal year. Ninety-seven per cent of applications that were dealt with during the year were approved, with conditions designed to protect the surrounding Escarpment environment.

In addition to considering Niagara Escarpment permit applications and administering the related land use regulations, the Commission also reviews and participates in hearings on applications for severances, subdivisions, official plans, zoning bylaws, environmental assessments, park plans, transportation corridors and undertakings by other government agencies, within and adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

The Commission also assesses and comments on proposed provincial and federal legislation, regulations and policies that have the potential to affect the Niagara Escarpment.



NEC Development Permit Activity	Fiscal 2008/09
Development Permit Applications Received	459
Approved	360
Refused	12
Applications Appealed	35
Hearing Officer Decisions	15
Joint Board Decisions	0
Minister's Decisions	4
Cabinet Decisions	0

Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendments

As part of the administration of the Plan, the NEC processes applications to amend the Plan. Usually, amendments propose site-specific exceptions to the policies of the Plan. Amendments are approved, rejected or modified by the Minister of Natural Resources or the Ontario Cabinet. Occasionally, the NEC proposes amendments to update, improve or clarify the Plan.

Plan Amendment Activity	2008/09
Amendments Received	8
Amendments Processed (staff reports to NEC)	9
Recommendations to Minister	4
Petitions to the Ontario Cabinet	0
Approved by Minister or Cabinet	0
Refused by Minister or Cabinet	0
Referred to Joint Board	0
Active Amendments	13
Withdrawn/Deferred	0
Determined to be Urban Use*	2

Amendments Received:
PS 173 08 Covington Investments Inc.
PH 174 08 Halton Place
PC 175 08 Escarpmetn Recreation
PW 176 08 NEC – RBG Lands
PH 177 08 "GAP" Lands – NEC Burlington
PC 178 09 Species at Risk
PH 179 08 Pleasantview
PH 180 09 Dufferin-Acton Quarry

**The Greenbelt Act (2005) prohibits the expansion of urban areas and urban uses in the area of the Greenbelt Plan, which includes the Niagara Escarpment Plan area. The expansion of urban areas or uses can only be considered when the Greenbelt Plan is reviewed, scheduled for 2015.*

Nelson Quarry

NEC planners David Johnston and Nancy Mott-Allen were members of the Joint Agency Review Team (JART) on the Nelson Aggregate Company application to amend the Niagara Escarpment Plan to permit a quarry in the Mount Nemo area of the City of Burlington. Other JART agencies included the City of Burlington, Ministry of Natural Resources, Conservation Halton and the Region of Halton. JART completed its technical report in February. Nelson appealed its application to the Joint Board. The NEC has party status at the hearing and NEC staff has participated in several pre-hearing conferences this year. A Commission position on the NEPA application is expected in late 2009.

PC 178 09 Harmonization of the NEP with the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 2007

The proposed Plan Amendment reflects the need to harmonize the existing Species at Risk (SAR) habitat protection provisions of the NEP, with the updated ESA, 2007 which came into force in June 2008, replacing the previous ESA which is outdated having been drafted and passed in 1971. If approved, the Amendment will strengthen the current NEP policies with respect to habitat protection for SAR, while maintaining the integrity of those existing policies supporting habitat protection for general wildlife and fish species that may not be subject to the provisions of the ESA, 2007.

Policies and definitions related to SAR and SAR habitat being amended in the NEP are consistent with the purpose and objectives of the NEPDA and the NEP respecting the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment and in the objective to protect unique ecologic areas, which includes the protection of SAR habitat. The proposed Amendment also respects provincial legislation such as the ESA, 2007 and the Federal Fisheries Act. The Amendment will ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to the protection of SAR habitat through the various Provincial Plans and legislation.

Hearings and Consultations

Pre-Hearing
James Dick - Rockfort Quarry

An application to amendment the Town of Caledon Official Plan and Zoning By-law and apply for a licence under the Aggregate Resource Act to permit a quarry outside but adjacent to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area. NEC staff attended numerous pre-hearing meetings during 2008- 2009 as this hearing is scheduled to commence in Sept., 09.

Hearing
Thomas Severance

NEC Senior Strategic Advisor Nancy Mott-Allen gave evidence at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing regarding a proposed severance (Thomas) in the Town of Caledon. This hearing related to the policies in the NEP relating to the permission for a second dwelling for an historic home. NEC staff opposed the severance as it contravened NEC policy which does not allow a severance where a second dwelling was allowed to preserve a heritage home. The Town of Caledon also opposed the severance but it was approved by the Ontario Municipal Board.

Consultation
Ontario Heritage Trust

NEC planning staff consulted with the Ontario Heritage Trust and relevant Ministries to develop a strategy to assess the issue of cumulative impact from potential future, additional development of the remaining subdivision lots and the potential development of 73 existing checkerboard lots to the north of the subdivision, as recommended by Hearing Officers in 2007.

Pre-hearing
Koop Farms

A pre-hearing conference was held in April 2008 for multiple appeals against 2 Development Permits approving wind machines accessory to agriculture on 2 separate but adjacent properties in Grimsby (Niagara). The appeals were later withdrawn.

Pre-hearing
Zmenak & Baker

Pre-hearing conferences for multiple appeals against a Development Permit approving a dog kennel in Grimsby (Niagara). The appeals were later withdrawn.

Pre-hearing
Michael Fulcher - D.G. Bawtinheimer Ltd.

NEC staff participated in pre-hearing conferences and 4 days of a related appeal hearing against a Development Permit approving the replacement of a dock services building with a new larger building adjacent to the Village of Queenston in Niagara-on-the-Lake (Niagara). The hearing was scheduled for additional days beginning in April, 2009 to be completed. The NEC was represented by Legal Counsel at this hearing.

Hearing
Paletta International

NEC staff participated in a 3-day Ontario Municipal Board Hearing where the NEC, represented by Legal Counsel, was granted Party status to support the decision of the City of Hamilton Committee of Adjustment to refuse a "Consent" to split an agricultural parcel into 2 smaller agricultural parcels owned by Paletta International Inc. who appealed the decision. Part of the property, located in the former City of Stoney Creek, is outside the Niagara

Escarpment Plan but still in the Greenbelt Plan, and this negated the requirement for a Development Permit. The OMB upheld the appeal and approved the application.

Pre-hearing
Sciarra

A pre-hearing teleconference session for an appeal against a Development Permit approving the replacement of an accessory building with a larger accessory building on a rural residential lot in the former City of Stoney Creek (Hamilton), with requirements for site rehabilitation addressing previous unauthorized site alterations and uses. A follow-up site meeting on a separate day occurred in an effort to resolve the appeal. The matter was scheduled for further sessions beginning in April, 2009.

Mediation
Kozak

Averted an appeal hearing by mediating and facilitating withdrawal of the appeal.

Mediation
Region of Peel

Averted appeal hearing by mediating and facilitating withdrawal of the appeal.

Hearing Preparation
Guimero Appeal

Site inspection, preparation of Witness Statement (with supporting documentation), meeting with City of Hamilton and attendance at OMB Hearing adjourned to 2009 -2010 fiscal.

Official Plans, Official Plan Amendments and Environmental Assessments

The NEC commented on a number of Official Plan Amendments and Environmental Assessments including Provincial Environmental Assessments for the proposed transportation undertakings of the GTA West, Niagara to GTA Corridor and Go Transit Georgetown to Kitchener rail expansion.

Hydro One Bruce to Milton Transmission Reinforcement Project

The proposed project would traverse the NEP Area for a distance of approximately 6.7 km, impacting and including 6.2 ha of Escarpment Natural Area.

The NEC reviewed and provided comments on the draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) released by Hydro One in September 2008. A number of NEC comments and suggested revisions were taken into consideration and reflected in the final EAR submitted to the MOE for approval in December 2008. NEC staff reviewed and commented on the final EAR in January 2009. A Notice of Completion of Ministry Review was received by the MOE in March 2009.

Niagara Escarpment Parks and Open Space System (NEPOSS) Manual

In 2008, the Ministry of Natural Resources initiated the update of the NEPOSS Manual, which guides agencies in the establishment and management of parks and open spaces within NEPOSS. The MNR is currently working with NEC staff, conservation authorities and other NEPOSS stakeholders to refine the manual, which is scheduled for completion in 2009.

Park Management Plans were completed and approved by the NEC and MNR in 2008-09 for the Terra Cotta – Silver Creek Complex and Delphi Point

Park. NEC staff is currently working with agencies to develop Management/Master Plans for Country Heritage Park, Burlington New City Park, Cheltenham Badlands, Cootes to Escarpment Lands, Niagara Parks Commission Lands, Hilton Falls Conservation Area, Rattlesnake Point and Mount Nemo. The NEC also deals with development permit applications for development in parks within NEPOSS as part of its normal regulatory business.

Annual Highlights

Strategic Plan

The NEC adopted a Strategic Plan during the fiscal year covering the next 4 years (2008-2012). It sets out the NEC's core values and vision: ***Providing leadership for conservation and enhancement of the continuous natural environment and cultural landscape of the Niagara Escarpment for today's and future generations.***

The Mission Statement adopted by the Commission reflects the legislated Purpose and Objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act and the Niagara Escarpment Plan.

Through workshops and questionnaires the Niagara Escarpment Commission and staff established goals and strategic directions for the next four years that address the following areas:

- Public Engagement and Outreach
- UNESCO World Biosphere Reserve
- Strengthening Partnerships and Collaborations
- Environmental Monitoring
- Increased Protection for Ecological, Cultural and Landscape Values
- More Sustainable Resource-based Policies

The NEC's Strategic Plan provides a framework to clarify and revitalize the Niagara Escarpment Commission's objectives and position the program for the major Plan Review scheduled to commence in 2015.

ONE Monitoring Program

The purpose of the Ontario Niagara Escarpment (ONE) Monitoring Program, mandated under the 2005 Niagara Escarpment Plan (NEP), is to determine whether the NEP, with its unique land use policies, is working to achieve its objectives.

The Environmental Monitoring Framework identifies indicators for seven "theme" areas that are being monitored and used to assess the effectiveness of NEP policies and to inform future policy development. This framework, together with the NEC Strategic Plan, guides monitoring activities on an annual basis. The "Natural Heritage" theme area was the primary focus of 2009 NEC Monitoring Program activities. The program's annual report for 2008-09 is available at www.escarpment.org.

Ongoing monitoring projects, reports and studies included:

- An Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Niagara Escarpment Plan in Protecting Provincially Significant Life Science Areas of Natural & Scientific Interest
- State of Escarpment Forests
- Forest Biodiversity Monitoring at Cabot Head, Bruce County
- Jefferson Salamander Recovery Strategy Team Participation
- Massassauga Rattlesnake Recovery Strategy Team Participation
- Analysis of Niagara Escarpment Forest Biodiversity Plots, 1996-2008

- Wetland Change in the NEP Area
- Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority Partnership on Escarpment Baseflow Water Study

Sustainable Halton

Niagara Escarpment Commission staff participated in the Technical Advisory Committee established to develop policies for the Mineral Aggregate section of the Region of Halton's Sustainable Halton Official Plan. Although no consensus was reached and discussions and comments are continuing on the proposed policies, the purpose and objectives of the Niagara Escarpment Plan were highlighted throughout the process.

Pleasant View Survey

A regulation to add the Pleasant View Survey lands in the City of Hamilton to the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area is pending a decision by the Minister. NEC staff provided comments to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in opposition to a proposed amendment to the Parkway Belt West Plan to permit a residential development at the intersection of York Road and Valley Road in the Pleasant View area. NEC staff also opposed the application to amend the City of Hamilton Official Plan for the same lands.

Study on Aggregate Resources in Southern Ontario (SAROS)

The Ministry of Natural Resources has commenced an update of the 1992 study on Aggregate Resources in Southern Ontario. NEC Chair Don Scott and Senior Strategic Advisor Nancy Mott-Allen represent the NEC on the Advisory Committee and the Technical Expert panel respectively. Other stakeholders include several provincial ministries, Gravel Watch Conservation Ontario, the University of Toronto, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Ontario Professional Planners Institute, and the Ontario Stone Sand and Gravel Association. The completed State of the Aggregate Resource in Ontario Study is expected by November 2009.

Urban Uses

The Niagara Escarpment Commission considered two proposed Niagara Escarpment Plan Amendments that were determined to be Urban Uses. The first application was made by Halton Place, where the applicant had applied to make a site-specific amendment to the Escarpment Rural Area to permit a BMX bicycle facility. This proposed use was determined to be an Urban Use by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. Given the changes to the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act to add policies related to the expansion of urban uses in the Greenbelt, it was determined that the amendment could not be made until 2015.

Site Alterations: Filling, Grading and Excavations

As a result of a number of requests for Development Permits to bring fill into the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, the Niagara Escarpment Commission requested that staff examine the policies in the NEP regarding "fill." The NEC adopted Administrative Guidelines for Implementing Policies on Filling, Grading and Excavations – site alterations and policy changes that might be made to the NEP to ensure that contaminated material will not be imported onto a lot in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.

Subsequent to the adoption of these guidelines the Niagara Escarpment compliance & Enforcement Officer participated with the Region of Halton Conservation Authorities, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Natural Resources in an information blitz to inform the public about the concerns regarding filling and the need to adhere to existing legislation.

Compliance and Enforcement

Since the introduction of the NEC's Compliance & Enforcement Officer in 2008, a Compliance Plan was developed to document and report on the progress of Inspection, Investigation & Enforcement (II & E) activity associated to the administration and enforcement of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

A series of forms and a compliance tracking database have been designed to manage the compliance process from the initial investigation stage through to file resolution.

Working in partnership with many local municipalities' planning and enforcement branches, the NEC's Compliance & Enforcement Officer consults on matters of joint concern in overlapping areas of jurisdiction. Encouraging resolution of compliance concerns through verbal directives, written notifications and cautions on litigation, the majority of compliance matters are often resolved without having to involve the MNR.

Compliance and Enforcement Summary

Total Charges
3

Penalty $
3730.00

Restoration Orders/Stop Work Orders
4

Notices of Violation
71

NEC Communications: Community Outreach & Stakeholder Relations

The NEC participates in a broad range of partnerships with stakeholder groups, municipalities, conservation authorities, government ministries, agencies and planning departments.

One of the greatest successes of the NEC communications program in community engagement is the Leading Edge Conference, a forum on sustainable tourism, ecological monitoring and community efforts in conservation. The conference's partnerships and collaborations raise the program's profile and fulfill our mandate both as a UNESCO biosphere reserve and as Ontario's leading environmental land use planning agency.

The Leading Edge 2008 Conference took place in October in the Town of Mono, in the Headwaters region of the Escarpment. Commenced with a welcoming message from Minister Cansfield, this instalment of the Leading Edge Conference Series was a return to the conference's roots as a forum on biosphere-related studies.

The conference was accessible and affordable for students and community representatives with nominal registration rates. Through corporate sponsorship we were able to again provide student sponsorships for four students currently studying urban planning and environmental sciences. With 100 attending delegates representing MNR, Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Greenbelt Council and other agencies and local governments, partnerships included:

Alternatives Journal
Brock University
Canadian Biosphere Reserves Association
Coalition on the Niagara Escarpment (CONE)
County of Dufferin
Dufferin Aggregates
Environment Hamilton
Escarpment Biosphere Conservancy
Frontenac Arch Biosphere Reserve
Fundy Biosphere Reserve
Green Earth Strategies
Hills of Headwaters Tourism Association
Lac St. Pierre Biosphere Reserve
Lafarge Canada
MHBC Planning
Nelson Aggregate Co.
Ontario Heritage Trust
Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
Ontario's Ministry of Tourism
Save the Oak Ridges Moraine (STORM) Coalition
Toronto and Region Conservation Authority
Town of Orangeville
University of Waterloo
Walker Industries Ltd.

A highlight of Leading Edge 2008 was a session by NEC staff with a series of presentations on current and ongoing projects: Forest Cover in the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, Monitoring of Provincially Significant Life Science ANSIs, the new NEC Development Permit Tracking System and Niagara Escarpment Visual Analysis. The NEC's presentation series received overwhelmingly positive feedback by conference delegates.

In addition to the Leading Edge Conference, NEC Communications projects in 2008/09 included the following:

Website design and ongoing management

- Redesign/launch of www.escarpment.org in July, 2008; site visitation for the fiscal year: 201,000 page views
- NEC policies, commission meeting minutes, agendas and reports posted for public service

New electronic publications

- Design, production and circulation of a new quarterly electronic newsletter series to 600 stakeholders and community members to educate and inform on NEC policies, Escarpment events and Commission business.
- Production of online conference proceedings from Leading Edge 2008 Conference including research presentations
- Publication of eight new online "Escarpment Explorer" brochures with maps

Publications

- Design and production of the 07-08 NEC Annual Report
- Design and production of new Ontario's Niagara Escarpment brochure with foldout map of 131 Niagara Escarpment Parks

Community outreach

- Pre-planning of the 2009 Niagara Escarpment Achievement Award series including event and media planning
- Design and production of four new exhibit display panels
- Design of community, Commissioners' & school Powerpoint presentations
- Written contribution, design and editing of NEC Strategic Plan
- Writing and editing of NEC correspondence & website content

Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve

The Biosphere Reserve Coordination (BRC) project landed January 2009 across Canada. Appreciative acknowledgement for the funding is extended to Environment Canada by each of the 14 Canadian biosphere reserves and the national association. The BRC project allowed the biosphere reserves to hire a coordinator to further their objectives and activities. The Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve continues to be committed to conserving biodiversity, promoting sustainable communities, and partnering in research, monitoring, outreach and education. A number of projects are in the developmental stage in the areas of agriculture, tourism, education, communication, water and terrestrial monitoring among others. Building on existing relationships and creating in-roads with new groups of people and businesses in the NEBR, this project continues to gain momentum suggesting significant results.

Financial Context

Niagara Escarpment Commission Financial Summary 2008-09

	Approved Budget	Actual Expenditures
Salaries & Wages	$1,737,426	$1,756,946
Transportation & Communication	$31,400	$77,392
Services Total	$542,000	$298,030
Supplies and Equipment Total	$27,900	$65,096
Total Operating Budget	$601,300	$440,518
Total	$2,338,726	$2,197,464

Employee Benefits are managed centrally.

Performance Measures

Key Operational Performance Goals and Results

Goals	Measures	Results
Commitment #1 The NEC will communicate the NEC and Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve mandate to the public.	The NEC will provide a variety of public outreach initiatives to increase awareness of the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve and NEC mandate.	The NEC used "green" communications methods such as online conference proceedings and the website and tracked media coverage, website usage trends, publications circulation and exhibits.
Commitment # 2 The NEC will work collaboratively with partners, stakeholders and government ministries & agencies.	The NEC will provide input and comments on planning-related concerns such as Official Plans and Environmental Assessments, as well as biosphere reserve directives.	The NEC continued to build partnerships with municipalities, stakeholders, local service industries and organizations to promote/ deliver on planning guidance, research, monitoring, eco-tourism promotion and other NEC priorities.
Commitment #3 Commissioners and staff will provide balanced and fair service to the public.	Commissioners and staff will monitor public feedback and investigate any complaints according to the NEC's complaints policy and the province's Ombudsman.	The NEC continued to provide feedback opportunities to applicants; monitored the conduct of Commissioners and staff and investigated concerns in accordance with the NEC's complaints policy.
Commitment #4 The Commission and staff will provide decisions in timely manner in accordance with Government of Ontario business procedures	The NEC will track the time it takes to process and render decisions on Development Permit applications, Plan Amendments, hearings and other procedures.	The NEC measured Development Permit and Plan Amendment processing times to accommodate appropriate stakeholder comment periods, consultation time for legal considerations and adequate file preparation time for staff to produce fair and balanced reports.
Commitment #5 Reporting on NEC decisions, initiatives and policies.	The NEC will report updates and final decisions on policies, biosphere reserve initiatives, Plan Amendments and municipal & environmental comments.	The NEC continued to publish decisions, projects and program information of community interest via its website and annual report.

The Niagara Escarpment

Ontario's Niagara Escarpment rises wild and beautiful above the farmlands and communities of south-central Ontario. It is one of Canada's most magnificent landforms – a forested ridge traveling 725 km from Queenston, near Niagara Falls, to Tobermory.

The Escarpment and lands in its vicinity are protected by the Niagara Escarpment Plan. The NEP area covers portions of 22 local municipalities within seven regions and counties and the City of Hamilton.

Human activity on the Escarpment is guided and shaped by the NEP. In 1985 the Ontario government adopted this visionary environmental plan. The NEP aims to conserve Ontario's Niagara Escarpment as a continuous natural environment. Development on the Escarpment must be compatible with this objective.

The NEP outlines land use designations, development criteria and related permitted uses, including farming, forestry and mineral resource extraction. It also provides the framework for a string of more than 130 existing and proposed parks and open spaces linked by the Bruce Trail.

The Escarpment is a source of water for a vast area of south-central Ontario. For several municipalities it is also the last remaining continuous forest cover and wildlife corridor. As well, the Escarpment Plan ensures the maintenance of open countryside, conserving land for agriculture and complementary rural activities.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission

The Commission is a 17-member Ontario government agency with representatives from the general public and from municipal counties, regions and cities on the Escarpment. The Commission reports to the Minister of Natural Resources and is supported by a staff of 23 operating from offices in Georgetown and Thornbury.

The NEC's responsibilities include administration and oversight of Niagara Escarpment permits, processing amendments to the Niagara Escarpment Plan, providing Plan interpretation, commenting on municipal and provincial policies, programs and land use initiatives, supporting the development and acquisition of parks and trails and promoting sound stewardship of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment.

Niagara Escarpment Commissioners

The Commission is governed by a 17 member Board of Commissioners appointed by the Government of Ontario through Order-in-Council.

The Agency reports to government through the Minister of Natural Resources. The Commission meets as a corporate body each month to review and make decisions on development permit applications, proposals for Plan Amendments, planning initiatives and policy issues. The Commission is supported by a staff of 26 persons operating from the Georgetown main office and its Thornbury regional office.

Niagara Escarpment Commissioners

PUBLIC-AT-LARGE	OIC #	TERM
ALEXANDER, Donald J. (St. Catharines)	267/2004 345/2007	March 3, 2004 to March 3, 2007 Feb 21 2007 to March 2, 2012
BEATTIE, Georgina (Winona)	1383/2003 2102/2006	Sept. 24, 2003 to Sept. 24, 2006 Nov. 12006 to Nov. 1, 2011
BORODCZAK, Nars (Oakville)	2386/2006 1901/2008	Dec. 13, 2006 to Dec. 13, 2008 Dec. 13, 2008 to Dec. 12, 2011
CAMBRAY, Corwin T. (St. Catharines)	1530/2007 1160/2008	July 9, 2007 to July 9, 2008 July 9, 2008 to July 8, 2011
LITTLE, Joan (Burlington)	265/2004 346/2007	March 24, 2004 to March 24, 2007 March 24, 2007 to March 23, 2012
LOUIS, Cecil (Toronto)	489/2004 1057/2007	March 24, 2004 to March 24, 2007 March 24, 2007 to March 23, 2012
MILLER, Moreen (Alton)	488/2004 871/2007	April 7, 2004 to April 7, 2007 April 7, 2007 to April 6, 2012
RILEY, John (Mono)	1381/2003 2101/2006	July 24, 2003 to July 24, 2006 Nov. 1, 2006 to Nov. 1, 2011
SCOTT, Donald W. (Appointed As Chair) (Bruce)	1268/97 1160/2000 1380/2003 1400/2004 819/2007	June 25/97 to June 25, 2000 June 25, 2000 to June 24, 2003 June 25, 2003 to June 24, 2004 June 25, 2004 to June 24, 2007 June 25, 2007 to June 24, 2012
MUNICIPAL	OIC #	TERM
BOYLE, Tom (Bruce)	546/98 492/2004 432/2007	March 25, 1998 to Oct. 6, 1999 March 24, 2004 to March 24, 2007 March 24th, 2007 to March 23, 2011
REIF, Wally (Grey)	549/2007	April 4, 2007 to April 4, 2011
DAVIDSON, Shawn (Simcoe)	548/2007	April 4, 2007 to April 4, 2011
BALDWIN, Dave (Dufferin)	999/2003 458/2004 344/2007	May 7, 2003 to February 21, 2004 March 3, 2004 to March 3, 2007 March 1, 2007 to February 28, 2011
PATERAK, Richard (Peel)	221/2001 642/2004 343/2007	March 1, 2001 to February 29, 2004 March 1, 2004 to February 28, 2007 March 1 2007 to February 28, 2011
ELGAR, Allan (Halton)	261/2004 342/2007	March 3, 2004 to March 3, 2007 March 3, 2007 to March 2, 2011
FERGUSON, Lloyd (Hamilton)	547/2007	April 4, 2007 to April 4, 2011
COLLINS, Michael (Niagara)	263/2004 341/2007	March 3, 2004 to March 3, 2007 March 3, 2007 to March 2, 2011